



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

**MAILED**  
**FROM DIRECTORS OFFICE**

**MAR 16 2005**

**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3800**

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN  
12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD  
SEVENTH FLOOR  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90025-1030

In re application of

Alan Tien et al.

Application No. 10/772,530

Filed: February 04, 2004

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR  
INCENTIVIZING THE PROMOTION OF A  
PAYMENT SERVICE

DECISION ON REQUEST  
FOR WITHDRAWAL OF  
ATTORNEY

This is a decision on the request filed on November 22, 2004, under 37 CFR 1.36 and MPEP 402.06, requesting permission to withdraw as the attorney of record in the above-identified application.

The request is **NOT APPROVED**.

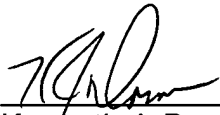
Under 37 CFR 1.36 an attorney may withdraw only upon application to and approval by the Commissioner. It should be noted that a withdrawal is effective when approved, not when filed. For approval of such a request the following conditions must be met:

- A) Each attorney of record must sign the notice of withdrawal, or the notice must contain a clear indication of one attorney signing on behalf of another, because the Office does not recognize law firms;
- B) There must be at least 30 days between approval of the withdrawal and the later of the expiration date of a time period for reply or the expiration date of the period which can be obtained by a petition and fee for extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a);
- C) A proper reason for the withdrawal as enumerated in 37 CFR 10.40(b) or subsection (1)-(6) of 37 CFR 10.40(c) must be provided;
- D) The applicant or patent owner must have been notified of the withdrawal as provided for in 37 CFR 1.36.

10/772,530

The request to withdraw as attorney is not accepted in the above-identified application because the request lacks condition B) above.

As to condition B), The statement included in the request, "Discontinuation of attorney client relationship," does not satisfy one of the valid reasons for withdrawal under 37 CFR 10.40 (b)(1)-(4) or (c)(1)-(6). The attorney may not discontinue the attorney client relationship on his own accord.



---

Kenneth J. Dorner  
Special Programs Examiner  
Patent Technology Center 3600  
(703) 308-0866  
Facsimile No.: (703) 605-0586

KJD/slb: 02/23/05